

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 12355

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, FR, US, EAID, XA
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER'S MEETING WITH GISCARD:
NORTH-SOUTH PROBLEMS AND SPECIAL FUND FOR
AFRICA

1. RENE JOURNIAC, THE PRESIDENT'S AFRICAN AFFAIRS
ADVISER, TOLD US APRIL 27 THAT AS INDICATED IN HIS
RECENT COMMENTS AT DAKAR, GISCARD INTENDS TO RAISE WITH
PRESIDENT CARTER AT THE LONDON SUMMIT TWO SUBJECTS OF
CONCERN TO AFRICA. THE FIRST WILL BE THE NORTH-SOUTH
PROBLEMS, IN PARTICULAR, THE NEED FOR THE RAPID CON-
CLUSION OF COMMODITY AGREEMENTS. GISCARD BELIEVES THAT
DEVELOPMENT IS IMPOSSIBLE WHEN THE EXPORT PRICES OF THE
COMMODITIES ON WHICH THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES DEPEND
FLUCTUATE BY A RATIO OF THREE OR FOUR TO ONE OVER A
SHORT PERIOD. THUS HE THINKS THAT THE BEST WAY TO
HELP THE AFRICAN AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO
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PAGE 02 PARIS 12355 271641Z

HELP THEMSELVES IS TO GUARANTEE THEM A REASONABLE
MINIMUM PRICE FOR COMMODITY EXPORTS.

2. JOURNIAC NOTED THAT THE FRENCH DO NOT FAVOR A
COMMON FUND AS PROPOSED BY THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES,
BUT CONSIDER THAT A NUMBER OF SEPARATE FUNDS ARE
INCREASINGLY NECESSARY AND THAT SOME COMMON MECHANISM

AMONG THEM MAY BE DESIRABLE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE U.S. POSITION ON THE PROBLEM ALREADY SEEMED TO BE MOVING TOWARD THE FRENCH, BUT UNDERScored FRANCE'S BELIEF THAT EARLY PROGRESS ON INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES IS ESSENTIAL IF WESTERN POSITIONS IN AFRICA ARE TO BE MAINTAINED.

3. SECONDLY, GISCARD WILL RAISE AGAIN THE QUESTION OF A SPECIAL FUND FOR AFRICA, A CONCEPT FOR WHICH HE OBTAINED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PRELIMINARY APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE BEFORE PRESENTING IT TO THE FRANCO- AFRICAN SUMMIT AT VERSAILLES LAST SPRING (76 PARIS 14732). JOURNIAC SAID THAT THE AFRICANS AT DAKAR HAD URGED GISCARD TO PRESS THIS PROPOSAL AND THAT THE GROWING NEED TO REASSURE THE MODERATE AFRICANS THAT THE WEST WILL NOT LET THEM DOWN ARGUES FOR ITS IMPLEMENTA- TION. WHILE AVOIDING DETAILS, JOURNIAC MENTIONED THAT THE OPENING UP OF LAND-LOCKED COUNTRIES, INCLUDING GIVING ZAIRE AN ADEQUATE INTERNAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO REDUCE ITS DEPENDENCE ON THE PORTS MAPUTO AND LUANDA, WAS HIGH ON GISCARD'S LIST OF PRIORITIES UNDER THE PROPOSED SPECIAL FUND.
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